

Foreword

Scaffolding can provide an efficient and safe means to perform work. However, unsafe scaffolding procedures can lead to accidents, serious injuries and death. This guide makes clear that planning ahead for the erection, use and dismantling of scaffolding can substantially reduce scaffold-related accidents and injuries. Compliance with the manufacturer's instructions, the use of this guide and compliance with all scaffolding standards will help ensure a safer workplace for employees.

Safety and health in the workplace is everyone's responsibility. Employers must be aware of workplace hazards facing their workers, and they must take appropriate action to minimize or eliminate exposure to these hazards. Workers are responsible for following the policies, procedures and training requirements established by their employers. *A Guide to Safe Scaffolding* discusses precautions that can prevent serious accidents and protect workers against fall injuries and fatalities.

In North Carolina, the N.C. Department of Labor enforces the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act through a state plan approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. NCDOL offers many educational programs to the public and produces publications to help inform people about their rights and responsibilities regarding occupational safety and health.

When reading this guide, please remember the mission of the N.C. Department of Labor is greater than just regulatory enforcement. An equally important goal is to help citizens find ways to create safe workplaces. Everyone profits when managers and employees work together for safety. This booklet, like the other educational materials produced by the N.C. Department of Labor, can help.

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Commissioner of Labor